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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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LIMDIS

SUBJECT: RELATIONS WITH CUBA

1. DURING OUR MEETING TODAY, FONMIN MARIO GIBSON REFERRED TO PRESS SPECULATION RE POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND CUBA ON AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, WITH REPORTS SWISS EMBASSY IN HAVANA ALREADY IN TOUCH WITH CUBAN GOVT ON OUR BEHALF THIS REGARD. HE CONSIDERED THIS WAS ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT IN VIEW GREAT IMPORTANCE WHICH CUBAN COOPERATION COULD HAVE IN DISCOURAGEMENT THIS TYPE OF TERRORISM.

2. FONMIN WENT ON TO SAY THAT CONTACTS WITH CUBA THIS SUBJECT HAD GIVEN RISE TO NEW AND INCREASED SPECULATION THAT FUNDAMENTAL U.S. POLICIES TOWARD CUBA MIGHT SOON CHANGE. HE RECALLED THAT OUR RESPECTIVE POLICIES TOWARD CUBA HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENTS NIXON AND MEDICI DURING LATTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. FOREIGN MINISTER'S UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAD TOLD PRESIDENT MEDICI THAT WE WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIS GOVT CONCERNING CUBA, AND IF THERE SHOULD BE ANY CHANGE IN OUR ATTITUDE WE "WOULD NOT FORGET TO SPEAK WITH BRAZIL WELL IN ADVANCE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT POLICY CHANGE." FONMIN RECALLED CONVERSATIONS WHICH HE AND OTHER BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS HAVE HAD WITH U.S. OFFICIALS THIS SUBJECT. BRAZILIANS HAD CONSISTENTLY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT BRAZIL SHOULD NOT BE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE IN SUDDEN U.S. MOVE. HE CONVINCED THAT SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES IN HEMISPHERE HAD TAKEN, OR WOULD SOON TAKE, STEPS TO RE-ESTABLISH

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RELATIONS WITH CUBA LARGELY BECAUSE THEY DID NOT WANT TO BE "LEFT BEHIND" AND FELT THAT SOONER, RATHER THAN LATER, U.S. POLICIES WOULD CHANGE. BRAZIL OF COURSE DID NOT WISH PREMATURELY TO TAKE ANY SUCH PRECAUTIONARY STEP.

3. FONMIN ASKED ME AGAIN REMIN USG OF GOB'S DEEPEST INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AND RELIANCE UPON ITS UNDERSTANDING RE PRIOR U.S. NOTICE. I SAID THAT I WOULD DO SO, BUT STATED I COULD REAFFIRM THE ASSURANCES THAT WE HAD PREVIOUSLY GIVEN HIM THAT U.S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA REMAINS UNCHANGED, AND NOTED WITH GRATIFICATION HIS AGREEMENT WITH U.S. VIEW THAT SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS RE HIJACKING DICTATED SPECIAL EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT UNDERSTANDING THIS SUBJECT.

4. IN DISCUSSING MATTER, MARIO GIBSON SAID FONMIN OF GUYANA HAD MENTIONED CONFIDENTIALLY DURING OPENING SESSION OF UNGA IN NEW YORK THAT HE INTENDED TO RE-ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA, EXPLAINING THAT THIS WAS VERY LARGELY FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES. WHEN MARIO GIBSON HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THIS MIGHT GIVE CUBAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN GEORGETOWN OPPORTUNITY TO INFILTRATE NEW AGENTS INTO CONTIGUOUS AREAS OF BRAZIL, GUYANAN FONMIN RESPONDED HE DID NOT RPT NOT INTEND THAT THERE WOULD BE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, BUT RATHER THAT RESPECTIVE AMBASSADORS TO OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE ACCREDITED. MARIO GIBSON SAID HE HAD RECEIVED CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE RECENTLY FROM GUYANA REAFFIRMING BOTH REASON FOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND INTENTION NOT TO PERMIT DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN GEORGETOWN, "AT LEAST NOT IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE."

5. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN PRESERVING BRAZIL'S FIRM ATTITUDE TOWARD CUBA IF I COULD, ON BASIS DEPT INSTRUCTIONS, ASSURE MARIO GIBSON THAT HIS SPECIAL CONCERN RE PRIOR NOTICE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN U.S. POLICE IS BEING KEPT FULLY IN MIND. XGDS-1ROUNTREE

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